Youth University High Ropes Challenge Course and Climbing Tower

Youth University

We Appreciate the Fact that Some Participants Will Not Want to Climb

Youth University offers adventurous activities to help people learn more about themselves and instill a sense of team spirit among groups - climbing walls and ropes courses may be adventurous to some while our experiential music program and group problem solving activities may be an adventure for others. We encourage each group to select the right adventures for their team.

Challenge By Choice

If your group has selected our ropes course or climbing elements we recognize that each participant will have different levels of comfort. Although we encourage participants to question their perceptions of what they believe they can accomplish, we would never seek to push anyone into an anxious state where learning is replaced by fear. To support this, Youth University operates under the policy of "Challenge by Choice". This means that individuals pick their method of challenge. Picking their challenges does not mean that individuals buy out of the activity; it means they can take on a role that fits their needs. For example, on the high ropes course, some participants don't feel comfortable climbing but are happy supporting their team members by learning how to be part of the belay team from the ground.

Your Safety is Important to Us:

Low Ropes

Youth University uses low ropes elements as a tool to build community and leadership among groups. The elements are placed two to three feet off the ground and offer teams a problem challenge to accomplish. Participants are taught proper spotting techniques and along with Youth University instructors assist in spotting each other as they complete the challenge.

High Ropes and Climbing Tower

We use a harness and rope belay system to ensure safety at our High Ropes Course and Climbing Tower. Our harnesses are fabricated out of the same material that seat belts are created from and are inspected before each program. A safety rope is connected to each climbers harness and is strung through a belay cable overhead (these belay cables can hold over 7000 kg - approximately the weight of an elephant). The rope is then threaded through a special belay device that creates friction on the rope. A designated staff "belayer" maintains the end of the rope. Every rope is thoroughly checked before use.

Inspections

Our Ropes Course Manager inspects and documents all Youth University low ropes elements, the high ropes course, and the climbing wall on a regular basis. We also obtain an annual detailed course inspection

Training

It is mandatory that all staff obtain the required technical training. As well our facilitation staff receive ongoing training in the area of experiential education. Technical training includes:

- High and Low Ropes Training
- Risk Management Training
- Standard CPR / First Aid

Memberships

In order to remain current regarding ropes course standards and continue to build on our experiential expertise, we maintain active memberships with and/or follow the standards set by the following organizations:

- The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT)
- The Association for Experiential Education (AEE)
- Ontario Camping Association (OCA)
- Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA)

What to Wear

We request that all groups dress in comfortable clothing appropriate for the weather. Closed-toe shoes are required when using the Low Ropes, High Ropes and Climbing Tower. Long pants are also strongly advised when using the ropes course.

Physical Fitness

While we do like to be aware of any serious health conditions, all individuals can take part at the level that they are comfortable. If participants have any concerns we encourage them to consult their doctor.

We Do Not Use Our Challenge Course in the Case of Extreme Weather

Youth University provides programming in all types of weather, all year round. Cancellations and delays could result from lightening or extreme wind that prevents participants from climbing on our challenge course. In this event, alternate activities will be provided.